

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1999/0251(CNS)	Procedure completed
Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006		
Subject 4.10.04.01 Programmes and actions for gender equality 4.15.08 Work, employment, wages and salaries: equal opportunities women and men, and for all		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		24/02/2000
		PSE CASHMAN Michael	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	BUDG Budgets		27/01/2000
		PPE-DE NARANJO ESCOBAR Juan Andrés	
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		01/02/2000
		PSE MCCARTHY Arlene	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		27/01/2000
		PSE MCAVAN Linda	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		15/02/2000
		ELDR LYNNE Elizabeth	
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		23/02/2000
		PSE SWIEBEL Joke	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2313		27/11/2000
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2296		17/10/2000
	Social Affairs	2259	08/05/2000
European Commission	Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	Commissioner	

Key events

25/11/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0567	Summary
21/01/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/03/2000	Debate in Council		
08/05/2000	Debate in Council	2259	
19/09/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
19/09/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0259/2000	
04/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
05/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0436/2000	Summary
10/10/2000	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0649	Summary
27/11/2000	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
27/11/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0251(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 050; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 013
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/12414

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1999)0567 OJ C 116 26.04.2000, p. 0016 E	25/11/1999	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(1999)0564	25/11/1999	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0513/1999 OJ C 226 08.08.2000, p. 0001	12/04/2000	CofR	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0596/2000 OJ C 204 18.07.2000, p. 0082	25/05/2000	ESC	
Document attached to the procedure		11431/2000	18/09/2000	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0259/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0008	19/09/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0436/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0183-0235	05/10/2000	EP	Summary

Modified legislative proposal		COM(2000)0649 OJ C 062 27.02.2001, p. 0119 E	10/10/2000	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SEC(2006)0277	22/02/2006	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Decision 2000/750](#)

[OJ L 303 02.12.2000, p. 0023](#) Summary

Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006

PURPOSE : to establish a Community Action Programme to combat discrimination (2001-2006). **CONTENT** : The programme promotes measures to combat discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. This programme does not cover gender. There are three principle objectives: - to improve the understanding of issues relating to discrimination through better knowledge and through evaluation of policies and practices - to build the capacity of actors in the Member States and at European level who are actively fighting discrimination - to disseminate to practitioners and opinion formers the values and practices underlying the fight against discrimination The programme divides Community Actions into three strands: - analysis and evaluation of factors through the collection of statistics, studies and the development of indicators and benchmarks, with effective dissemination of the results - capacity building trans-national co-operation between target actors and the promotion of networking at European level between Non-governmental organisations active in the field - awareness raising, particularly to emphasise the European dimension of the fight and to publicise results through campaigns, events and publications A Committee is set up to assist the Commission. The document lists the other countries that may participate in the programme, and makes provisions for monitoring and implementation.?

Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006

PURPOSE : to combat discrimination under the new powers bestowed on the European Community under Article 13 of the Treaty. **CONTENT** : The document examines the provisions at both national and Community levels to combat discrimination. It looks at the European Union initiatives already taken and the outcome of consultations with various institutions and interested parties, notably the European Parliament and NGOs. Building on experience, it proposes a mix of legal instruments, which will contribute to combating discrimination, including through the promotion of equal treatment. The Commission proposes: - A directive to combat discrimination in the labour market on all grounds referred to in Article 13, with the exception of sex, which has a specific legal basis for action in the field of employment. - A directive to combat discrimination on grounds of racial and ethnic origin which goes beyond the labour market. The scope of the two directives overlaps since both cover racial discrimination. If one were adopted before the other, the remaining proposal would be amended accordingly. - A programme of action designed to complement Member States' efforts to combat discrimination. This covers all grounds under Article 13 except sex discrimination. A new Commission programme will cover the latter. These proposals form a comprehensive basis for action, ensuring a minimum level of legal rights throughout the Community. The Commission points out that other measures will contribute to the fight against discrimination, including the provisions of the Employment guidelines, the Structural Funds, the new Education, Training and Youth programmes and the new programmes on gender equality and social exclusion currently being prepared. Community action is a clear signal that discrimination is not acceptable within the European Union.?

Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006

On the 20 January 2000, the Council decided to consult the European Parliament on the proposal establishing a Community Action Programme to combat discrimination (2001-2006). In the proposal, the Commission provides for a Consultative Committee to be set up in order to assist it. Throughout the discussions within the Group on Social Questions, the Member State delegations came to a unanimous agreement concluding that it was desirable to modify the provision relating to the Committee. They believed that a Joint Consultative Committee would be more appropriate. As this modification is rather substantial, the European Parliament must be informed about it before the Committee gives its opinion. As a consequence, COREPER of the 18/09/2000 decided to inform the European Parliament of this change to the comitology procedure.?

Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006

The committee adopted the report (consultation procedure) by Michael CASHMAN (PES, UK) approving, with a number of amendments, the proposal for a Council decision establishing a Community action programme to combat discrimination (2001-2006). The committee sought to widen the scope of the programme by introducing amendments designed to link it to the application of Article 13 of the Treaty (measures to combat all forms of discrimination) and guarantee equal treatment for all. One amendment stipulated, for example, that harassment would thus

be deemed to be a form of discrimination. The Commission's proposal was also amended to include measures to prevent, not just combat, discrimination. Lastly, the Commission was asked to publish an annual report on the implementation of the objectives and priorities of the programme. ?

Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006

The European Parliament adopted the report by Michael CASHMAN (PES, UK) on combating discrimination. A large number of amendments are introduced into the proposal which widen the scope of the programme. In particular, harassment is included as a form of discrimination, and the programme is linked to the application of Article 13 of the Treaty. Some of the amendments are on preventing discrimination as well as fighting it. There is provision for giving upto 90% of core funding to EU level non-governmental organisations with experience of fighting discrimination. The Commission will publish an annual report on the objectives and priorities of the programmes.?

Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006

This document is an amended proposal for a Council Decision establishing a Community Action Programme to combat discrimination 2001-2006, pursuant to Article 250(2) of the EC Treaty. On 25.11.1999, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Council decision establishing a Community Action Programme to combat discrimination (2001-2006), in the framework of a package of measures based on Article 13 of the EC Treaty. In light of the opinion of the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament, the Commission modified its original proposal as follows: - it clarified that the prevention of discrimination is also important as a means of combating it. The empowerment of self-help groups has also been included as an objective of the proposal; - the areas of action covered by the proposal have been clarified to include forms of multiple discrimination; - the proposal recognises the diverse nature of groups facing discrimination, and that particular difficulties exist in relation to one ground of discrimination only; - the importance of information from the programme being accessible has been emphasised, in order to facilitate the participation of disabled people and others. The texts and guidelines will be in clear and accessible language, and the proposal will take into account the special needs of disabled participants wherever possible; - the recitals highlight the need to develop equal opportunities policy in new areas, in addition to strengthening it in the existing areas. The gender perspective is to be integrated at all levels of the proposal, and all grounds of discrimination are to be considered equally important; - the role of non-governmental organisations in the programme has been highlighted, and the Commission will make relevant information available to them. The recitals recognise the importance of such organisations of all sizes and the need to provide core funding to them; - further clarification has been included of the need for consistency and complementarity with activities under other programmes, including action in the field of equal opportunities, the Community Statistical Programme, and other research activities; - transnational exchange activities under the programme will involve actors from a minimum of 3 Member States, reduced from 4. ?

Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006

PURPOSE : to establish a Community action programme to combat discrimination (2000-2006). COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 2000/750/EC establishing a Community action programme to combat discrimination. CONTENT : having regard to Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Communities, this Decision establishes a Community action programme to promote measures to combat direct or indirect discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, for the period from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2006. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the programme for the period 2000-06 is set at EUR 98,4 million. Within the limits of the Community's powers, the programme shall support and supplement the efforts at Community level and in the Member States to promote measures to prevent and combat discrimination whether based on one or multiple factors, taking account, where appropriate, of future legislative developments. It shall follow these objectives: - to improve the understanding of issues related to discrimination through improved knowledge of this phenomenon and through evaluation of the effectiveness of policies and practices; - to develop the capacity to prevent and address discrimination effectively, in particular by strengthening organisations' means of action and through support for the exchange of information and good practice and networking at European level, while taking into account of the specific characteristics of the different forms of discrimination; - to promote and disseminate the values and practices underlying the fight against discrimination, including through the use of awareness-raising campaigns. With a view to achieving the objectives set out above, the following actions may be implemented within a transnational framework: 1) analysis of factors related to discrimination, including through studies and the development of qualitative and quantitative indicators and benchmarks, in accordance with national law and practices, with a view to assessing its effectiveness and impact, with effective dissemination of the results; 2) transnational cooperation and the promotion of networking at European level between partners active in the prevention of, and the fight against, discrimination, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs); 3) awareness-raising, in particular to emphasise the European dimension of the fight against discrimination and to publicise the results of the programme, in particular through communications, publications, campaigns and events. Arrangements for the implementation of the Community actions are set out in an Annex. The Commission shall ensure the implementation of the Community actions. It shall be assisted in its task by a joint committee made up of Member State representatives. It shall also have a regular exchange of views with representatives of NGOs and the social partners at European level. Furthermore, the Commission is also in charge of ensuring overall consistency with other Union and Community policies, instruments and actions, in particular by establishing appropriate mechanisms to coordinate the activities of the programme with relevant activities relating to research, employment, equality between women and men, social inclusion, culture, education, training and youth policy and in the field of the Community's external relations. The Commission and the Member States shall also ensure consistency and complementarity between action taken under the programme and the other relevant Union and Community initiative EQUAL. Member States shall also ensure consistency and complementarity between activities under the programme and those carried out at national, regional and local level. The programme is open to the participation of the EFTA/EEA countries, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey in accordance with financial conditions and procedures to be agreed with these countries. The Commission shall regularly monitor the programme in cooperation with the Member States. An evaluation report on the implementation of the programme is due for the 31 December 2005 at the latest. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 02.12.2000.?

Combating discrimination: Community action programme 2001-2006
